

A NEW ACCREDITATION BODY FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES.

The New South Wales and Victoria Registration Boards recently established a joint education committee with the following terms of reference.

The Joint Education Committee of the Chiropractors and Osteopaths Registration Boards of NSW and Victoria shall consist of 8 members, 4 of whom will be nominated by each Board. Of the nominees of each Board, at least one must be a chiropractor and one an osteopath. Other members will be at the discretion of the respective Boards. The Committee's Chairperson shall be appointed by the Committee. The Committee will meet at the discretion of its Chairperson and the procedures for the conduct of its meetings shall be approved by each Registration Board. Minutes of its meetings shall be kept and the Committee will report to the respective Boards, at each first Board meeting following the previous meeting of the Committee. The fees for members of the Committee shall be as determined by the respective nominating Board.

The functions of the Joint Education Committee shall be to advise the Boards on any issues submitted to it by the Boards impinging on, or relating to the following:

- Accreditation of entry level qualifications in chiropractic and osteopathy conducted in Australia
- Common requirements for entry level education
- Overseas qualifications
- Post graduate courses
- International reciprocity
- Competency examinations

The Joint Education Committee may itself take action to raise issues relevant to chiropractic and/or osteopathic education, and submit these issues and its comments to the respective Boards.

The membership of the Committee is as follows:

Mr. E. Devereaux (Chairman). Mr. Devereaux is a registered chiropractor and osteopath in private practice in Auburn and Castle Hill, Sydney. He has been a member of the NSW Board since its inception in 1979 and is currently the President and Chairman of the Board's Education Committee. He has held many positions in the Chiropractors Association of Australia (and its antecedents). He is a director of the Sydney College of Chiropractic Ltd, is a member of the Macquarie University, Centre for Chiropractic Advisory Board and is currently the Chairman. He was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in 1983.

Assoc. Prof. R. Bonello. Prof. Bonello, a registered chiropractor and osteopath, is the Head of the Centre for Chiropractic at Macquarie University, Sydney. He has been engaged in chiropractic education since 1982. He holds a Master's degree in Health Administration from the University of NSW and is currently completing a Masters degree in Science at Macquarie University. He has been a member of the NSW Board's Education Committee since April, 1994.

Prof. R. Golding. Prof. Golding, whose background is in theoretical and physical chemistry is Vice-Chancellor of James Cook University of North Queensland, Townsville. He has been a member of the NSW Board's Education Committee since its inception in 1981. He is currently Deputy Chairman of the Chiropractors and Osteopaths Registration Board of Queensland. He was awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia General Division I 1994.

Dr. D. de la Harpe. Dr. de la Harpe is a registered medical practitioner undertaking orthopaedic surgery training at various Melbourne hospitals. He has a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Neuroscience and a Bachelor of Applied Science (Chiropractic) degree from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He is currently completing a Masters degree in Surgery at Melbourne University. He is a member of the Victoria Board's Education Committee.

Prof. A. Kleynhans. Prof. Kleynhans, a registered chiropractor, is the Head of the School of Chiropractic, Osteopathy and Complementary Medicine and Associate Dean of the faculty of Biomedical and Health Sciences at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He has been engaged in chiropractic education since 1970 and osteopathic education since 1980. He has been a member of the Victorian Board since 1992 and is currently Chairman of the Board's Education Committee. He was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 1990.

Mr. D. Moor. Mr. Moor is a registered osteopath in private practice in Paddington, Sydney. He has been a member of the NSW Board and its Education Committee since 1991. He has held many positions in the Australian Osteopathic Association (and its antecedents). He completed a Masters degree in Clinical Practice at the University of Western Sydney in 1994.

Dr. K. Sturges. Dr. Sturges is a registered osteopath in private practice in Geelong, Victoria. He has been Secretary and President of the Australian Osteopathic Association and lectured at Royal Melbourne Institute

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of Technology. He has been a member of the Victorian Board since 1990.

Dr. B. Walker. Dr. Walker is a registered chiropractor in private practice in Ringwood, Melbourne. He has been a member of the Victoria Board by election since 1990. He has held many positions in the Chiropractors Association of Australia (and its antecedents) and is currently President of the Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia. He holds a Masters degree in Public Health from Monash University, (Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine).

Messrs. Robert Maxwell and Mark Keyworth attend JEC meetings as observers nominated by the Chiropractors and Osteopaths Registration Board of Queensland.

Dr. Peter Gibbons, Head of the Osteopathic Medicine Unit, Victoria University of Technology attends as an observer at the invitation of the Committee.

The Boards have invited expressions of interest from other Australian and New Zealand Registration Boards with respect to participation in the Committee's activities and are optimistic that all the Boards will ultimately be involved.

The Committee has developed guidelines for course appraisal for use by the Boards and plans to undertake appraisals of each of the Australian chiropractic and osteopathic educational programs during 1996. The Boards have established a Register of Assessors in consultation with the chiropractic and osteopathic professional associations, educational institutions and interest groups. The Register includes academic and clinical assessors. Professor Golding has been appointed as Lead Assessor. The Boards will mount a two day training program for assessors in 1996.

The Boards have advised relevant overseas accrediting authorities of the establishment of the Committee, its functions and membership with a view toward seeking reciprocal arrangements. In this context the Committee has established dialogue with the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (FCLB). The Boards have agreed that a relationship with the FCLB is a natural one, and that FCLB may be critical for Australian graduates wishing to practice internationally. The Boards will take the opportunity to further their position in the US by continuing correspondence with the FCLB and participating in the FCLB Conference scheduled for April 1996, in Chicago. The Boards have also agreed that it is appropriate that its participants present a paper to the Conference outlining the regulatory position in Australia, with particular emphasis on the new

accrediting model developed by the Boards, the current state of registration in Australia and Australia's chiropractic programs.

The Boards consider that it is equally important to develop international relationships in respect to osteopathy. In this context the Committee has commenced dialogue with the American Board of Osteopathic Examiners.

The Boards are committed to quality assurance of the Committee's operations. Accordingly the Boards have agreed that the Committee's processes and procedures be subject to external critical review, the details of which will be advised in due course. In the meantime the Committee has commenced work on developing a comprehensive strategic plan for consideration by the Boards.

The Registrar of the NSW Board, Michael Walsh, has been appointed as Secretary of the Committee. Further information concerning the Committee's activities is available from Mr. Walsh.

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